UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1996/48/Add.1
29 February 1996

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-second session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/50

Addendum

The present addendum contains the views of the Government of Australia concerning possible forms of participation by national institutions in United Nations meetings dealing with human rights, submitted pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 1995/50, which were received after the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General.

GE.96-10769 (E)

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]
[14 February 1995]

Australia considers the establishment and strengthening of independent national human rights institutions essential to the promotion and protection of human rights. Australia believes that positive action at the national level that is practical and preventive in nature is the surest means of improved human rights observance. Australia welcomes the rapid development of human rights institutions in many countries, the three international workshops on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and the creation of the coordinating committee by national institutions at the Second International Workshop on National Institutions held at Tunis in December 1993.

Australia recognizes the unique status and independent character of national human rights institutions that have developed in accordance with the principles annexed to United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/134. Australia, therefore, considers it would be appropriate to invite these independent national institutions to participate as separate entities with observer status in United Nations meetings dealing with human rights, such as the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary bodies. This would mean that these national institutions would participate on a basis similar to, but distinct from, that of non-governmental organizations.